

SEPTEMBER 2005 WEATHER SUMMARY

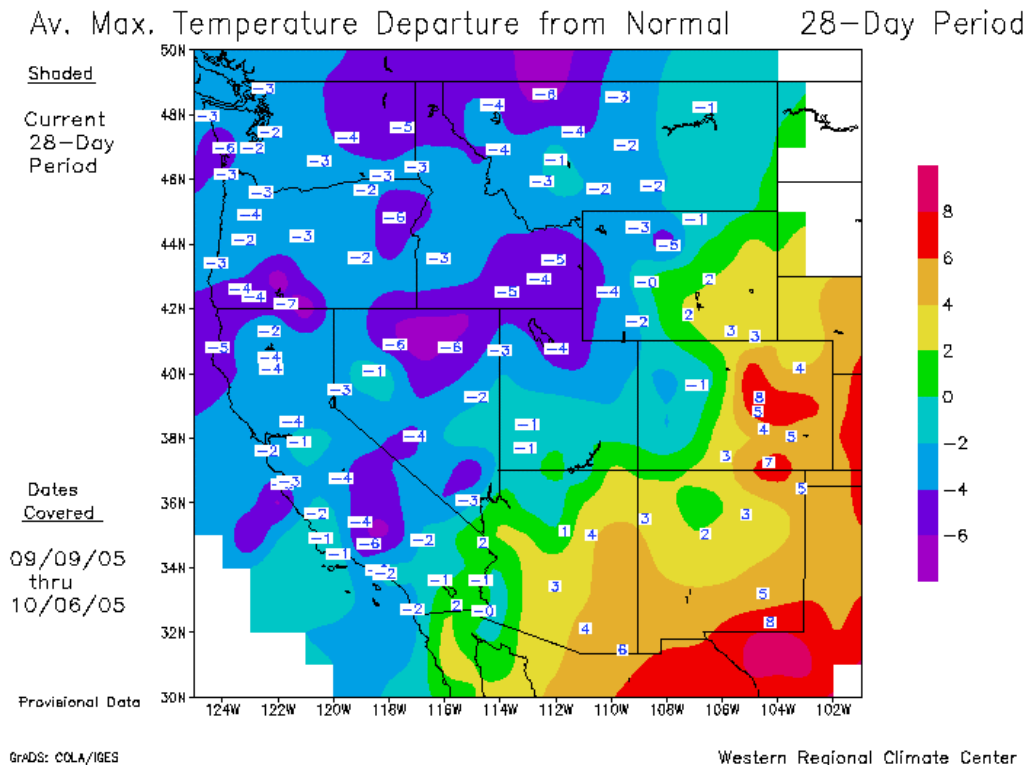
RIVERSIDE FIRE WEATHER CENTER

INTRODUCTION

A couple of ridges of high pressure over California brought above normal temperatures during the beginning and end of September. A series of pacific troughs moving through California brought below normal temperatures during the middle of the month. A couple of low pressure areas brought near to above normal rainfall to the region. Winds were mainly southerly with one strong offshore wind event at the end of the month.

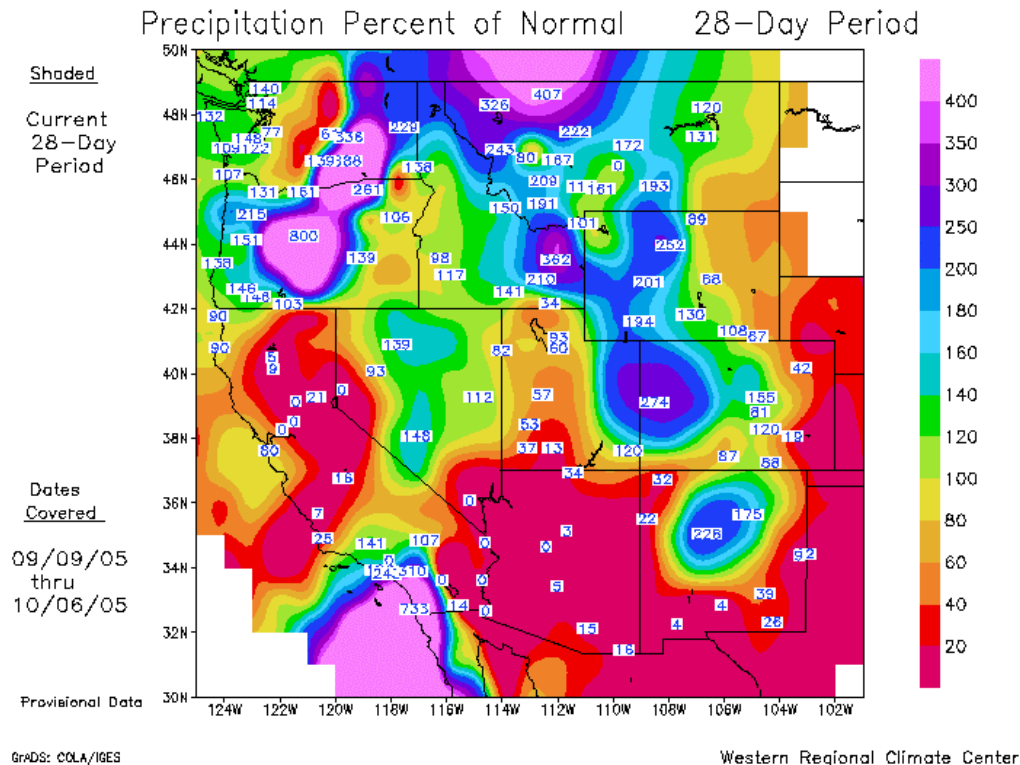
TEMPERATURES

A couple of ridges of high pressure over California brought above normal temperatures during the beginning and end of September. A series of pacific troughs moving through California brought below normal temperatures during the middle of the month. Across Southern California, many valley locations had maximum temperatures in the 90s with the ridges of high pressure and upper 70s and 80s with the pacific troughs. Normally, the valley locations of Southern California are in the mid 90s to start the month and mid 80s to end the month. For the entire month, maximum temperatures ranged from 6 degrees below normal over some South Central Mountain locations to 2 degrees above normal over some eastern desert locations. Riverside tied a daily low maximum temperature on September 9th with 78 degrees.



PRECIPITATION

A couple of low pressure areas off the California coast brought showers and thunderstorms to the region September 19th – September 20th and September 26th – September 27th. Most locations over Southern California and the Sierra saw between a quarter and three quarters of an inch of rain with these low pressure areas. Most other locations over Central California saw less than a quarter of an inch of rain. Overall, most locations received near to a little above normal precipitation. Riverside received 0.34 inches of rainfall for the month, when normally they receive 0.27 inches.



WINDS

Winds were mainly southerly during the entire month of September. Afternoon winds were mainly between 10 and 20 mph. However, there was one strong offshore wind event over Southern California, which occurred on September 28th. Winds over the mountains and below the canyons and passes of Southern California were 20 to 40 mph with gusts in the 50s and 60s on this day.

FIRES

September was a busy month with regard to wildfires. Numerous fires broke out during the entire month, with a heavy fire period the first and last week of the month. Most of the large fires were toward the end of the month. According to the "209s" There were 28 significant fires, of which 12 were considered large fires. Total acreage burned for the month was 39,370 acres. The largest fire was in Los Angeles County, the Topanga Fire that burned 24,175 acres.

CONCLUSION

Overall, September had below normal temperatures and near to above normal precipitation. Winds were mainly southerly the entire month. There was one strong offshore wind event at the end of the month.

